AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph **[0038]** with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] In practice, the width of the spot is usually measured by projecting the laser spot onto a planar surface spaced at a distance from the laser diode's front facet, and parallel thereto, to form an enlarged version of the spot (*e.g.*, to form a **[[near]]** **far** field pattern). The enlarged spot version is shown at 2 in FIG. 2. The enlarged spot version has the shape of an oval having two axes, a parallel axis 3 which is parallel to the plane of the active layers, and a perpendicular axis 4 which is perpendicular to the plane of the active layers. Because of optical diffraction effects, the width of the spot along perpendicular axis 4 is larger than the width of the spot along parallel axis 3, which is opposite to case shown in FIG. 3 where the horizontal spot width W_H is larger than the spot vertical width W_V. (When the dimensions of a laser spot are near the wavelength of the emitted laser light, which is most often the case, diffraction effects cause the light emitted from the smaller spot width to spread out with a greater diffraction angle than the light emitted from the larger spot width.) For deriving the value of W_V from the far field pattern, one first finds the two points along perpendicular axis 4 where the optical power is one-half (1/2) of the maximum optical power at the spot center. These two points are located on either side of the spot center, and are indicated in FIG. 2 by the reference numbers 5. The angle formed between the center of the front facet of the laser diode and each of the two points 5 of the enlarged version defines the full angle θ_V of the vertical far-field pattern. This angle is measured by means well known to the art. The vertical spot width W_V may be found from the angle θ_V and the wavelength λ of the emitted light from the following relationship (and its equivalents):

$$W_V = \frac{\lambda}{\pi \cdot \tan\left(\frac{\theta_V}{\sqrt{2 \cdot \ln 2}}\right)}, \qquad [1]$$

where "ln 2" is the natural logarithm of 2, where "tan" is the tangent function, and where θ_V is provided in the dimensions of radians.